

ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

2016 Accomplishments & 2017 Goals

2016 Goals (in bold) with Accomplishments listed below:

1. Increase involvement and improve communication with more lake associations.

1. Distributed 2015-16 Goals and Accomplishments to all lake associations to share with members.
2. Shared area lake association newsletters submitted to ICOLA to other member associations, including posting on ICOLA website. We have solicited submission of member newsletters for the website.
3. Renewed discussion on the value of ICOLA for Lake Associations.
4. At every ICOLA meeting, lake association members exchanged reports on activities and accomplishments. Some examples are: prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species, increased inspections and enforcement at accesses, identification and eradication of AIS, support for the Firewise program, loon counts, boat parades, potlucks, partnering with Let's Go Fishing with Seniors, Share the Lake day, shoreland restoration to reduce sediment erosion, reviewing and providing input to DNR on slot limits, coordination with townships and fire department to install water storage tanks for increased fire protection, efforts to resolve flooding and shoreland erosion problems due to high water.

2. Support ongoing diagnostic studies and expansion of those studies to additional lakes.

1. ICOLA solicited "citizen scientist" volunteers for the Deer-Pokegama Study in 2012, supported the report rollout in 2013 and provided information about the project at meetings. Further volunteer contributions will be encouraged for the follow-up study and mitigations contained in the "Deer and Pokegama Lakes Stream Phosphorous Reduction" grant obtained by SWCD.
2. Participated in a series of meetings for the Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategy (WRAPS) study by the Minnesota PCA and partners including SWCD to study the health of the Mississippi River Headwaters watersheds in Itasca County.
3. Supported the opening of a new branch water lab opened at ICC by RMB Environmental Labs.
4. Distributed and encouraged members to examine for accuracy and missing data in the Water Quality Assessment Reports assembled by RMB Environmental Labs.
5. ICOLA was ready to provide a roll-out meeting for the Water Plan Update, to be done by the Water Plan Implementation Committee (WPIC) and SWCD, but the Update was postponed. ICOLA will be ready and willing for this when the Update is rescheduled.

3. Support education and implementation of improved shoreland management.

1. Assessed nominees and presented Shoreland Stewardship Awards to selected property owners who were examples of outstanding shoreland management practices.

2. Provided funds for the SWCD Envirothon, an educational event for youth to learn about environmental stewardship.
3. Provided a presentation on environmental landscaping and buffers.
4. Invited Bob Boarash of RMB Labs to our February meeting for a presentation on their various water programs.
5. Annual meeting featured Dan Swenson of the Itasca County Environmental Services Department, and Moriya Rufer of RMB Labs.
6. Featured other educational and informational speakers at meetings during the year.
7. ICOLA members participated in various educational events in Itasca County, including the IWLP Youth Summit, Earthday events, the Healthy Watershed Conference, WRAPS meetings, the “State of the Waters” conference (Freshwater society and MN Extension), and a Rainy Lake Watershed conference.
8. Supported the Ecofootprint grant for follow-up action on phosphorous reduction as recommended by the Deer-Pokegema Diagnostic (2013).
9. Began planning to update the ICOLA brochure.

4. Promote education about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and activities to prevent the spread of AIS.

1. Worked with the statewide organizations such as MN COLA and MLRA to successfully preserve legislation enacted and funding appropriated to prevent the spread of AIS.
2. Sponsored a joint meeting of IWLP and ICOLA to roll out the Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Program (February 2015)
3. Provided two AISP Tech Committee representatives to participate in numerous meetings to draft and implement action plans for AIS in Itasca County, taking responsibility for the Citizen Action Projects (CAP) within the Itasca AISP.
4. Sponsored a CAP with other divisions of the Itasca AISP to hire RMB Labs to perform risk assessments on many prominent lakes for AIS favorable habitat, including the calcium content of lake water.
5. Participated in a spending survey by MN COLA on AIS from non-governmental sources.
6. Support and information for the MN Extension “Detector and Tracker” programs.
7. Continued AIS table tent and posters distribution urging awareness of AIS and the law to “pull the plug!”
8. Continued working with IWLP and the AISP to staff the county fair booth in a highly visible central location and distributed water quality and AIS ID/awareness materials.

5. Continue collaboration with Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) and other water-oriented partners.

1. ICOLA members successfully collaborated with IWLP to host Youth Water Summit, May 2015 and 2016.
2. ICOLA Board Members continue to serve on the IWLP Board, and vice-versa.

3. Partnered with IWLP to host meetings with County and participated in public information sessions on AIS funds available and the need for urgent action.
4. Continued to support IWLP's efforts to bring a water-testing laboratory to Itasca Community College (RMB Labs).
5. Continued membership with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, with ICOLA members attending MLRA meetings.
6. Continued membership with Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations, sending representatives to their several meetings.

6. Participate in County Governmental proceedings, such as the County's Comprehensive Plan, Water Plan, Zoning Ordinance and zoning variances.

1. Encouraged members to be involved in all aspects of County Government.
2. Continued to send a representative to the Itasca County Water Plan Implementation Committee.
3. Continued to support the Itasca County Firewise program.
4. Provided updated mailing lists of Lake Association Officers to Itasca County Environmental Services, the DNR and SWCD.

2017 Goals:

1. Increase involvement and improve communication with more lake associations.
2. Support and participate in research studies and "citizen science" projects.
3. Support education and implementation of improved shoreland management and water quality.
4. Work to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of AIS.
5. Continue collaboration with Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) and other water-oriented partners.
6. Participate in County Governmental proceedings, such as the County's Comprehensive Plan, Water Plan, Zoning Ordinance and zoning variances.

2016-2017 Meetings

(Itasca County Courthouse at 7pm, except as noted)

July 20, 2016 (Annual Business Meeting in Marcel Town Hall with potluck): 5:30pm

October 19, 2016

February 15, 2017

April 19, 2017

June 21, 2017

July 19, 2017 (Annual Business Meeting in Marcel Town Hall with elections and potluck): 5:30pm

October 18, 2017 (Itasca County Courthouse)